Redefining of adjusted gross revenue

274. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telecom companies have been demanding slashing of fees they will have to pay to Government and redefining Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR);

(b) if so, Government's reaction in this regard;

(c) whether the telecom companies are charging consumers this fees which they are paying to Government;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to redefine AGR, so that the benefits are passed on to the consumers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) While there is no change in license fee for access services since 01-4-2004, the license fee for long distance services was reduced to 6% of AGR with effect from 01-01-2006. There is no change in the definition of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR). However, the subject matter is *sub-judice* in the Telecom Dispute Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT).

(c) The consumers are charged by the telecom companies based on cost of operation and market competition. The cost of operation includes the component of license fee related to provision of services.

(d) and (e) The matter regarding definition of AGR is *sub-judice* before the Telecom Dispute Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT).

Skilled manpower for IT sector

275. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether keeping in view the impressive growth of the Information Technology (IT) Sector and the potential demand for a large work force, there is enough skilled manpower to match such demand;